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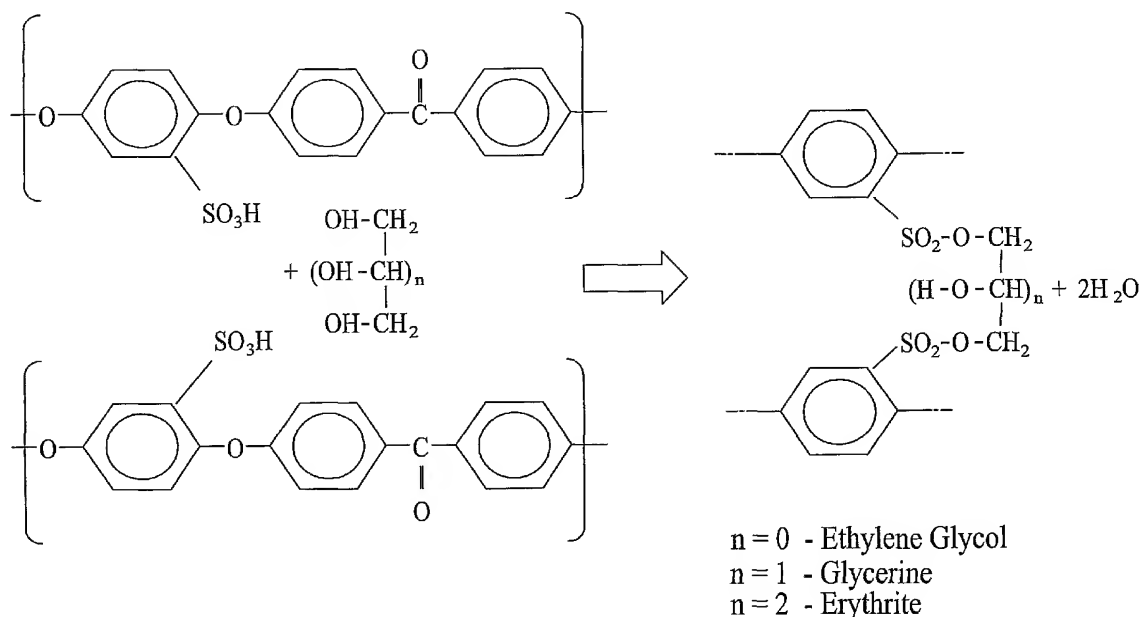
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**(54) Title:** METHOD FOR CROSS-LINKING SULFONATED POLYMERS



**(57) Abstract:** A method for the preparation of a cross-linked, sulfonated, proton exchange membrane for fuel cells, which includes: providing a sulfonated polymer, for example SPEEK; dissolving the sulfonated polymer in a polar casting solvent; adding at least one polyol cross-linking agent to obtain a solution, the cross-linking agent being added in a ratio of at least 1 polyol molecules per repeat unit of the sulfonated polymer to generate cross-linking; casting the solution to obtain the membrane; and curing the membrane.

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— *with amended claims*

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